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Alaskan ...Gold Fields



A Few Facts
Regarding the....

Copper River Country

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General interest at the present time centers on the gold diggings of Alaska, especially those of the Copper River country, in the southern portion where numerous rich strikes have recently been made. In fact, the success of prospectors in this district has been almost unprecedented, and the Copper River section bids fair to surpass the famous Klondyke region in mineral wealth.

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CLIMATE

The climate in the Copper River country is comparatively mild. The temperature for three years past has not fallen beyond 14 degrees below zero, and as a general thing has not been lower than 7 or 8 degrees below zero, or about comparatively the average winter temperature of the Middle Western States.

The mildness of the climate is attributable to the influence of the Japan current, which sets in shore at a point near the mouth of Copper River.

As shown by the government reports, this country is altogether different from the Klondyke region.

During the summer season good crops can be raised, and in addition to this means of support, there is an abundance of game, and the Copper River is one of the best salmon streams on the continent. There are small stations and Russian Missions at different points, which are self-supporting. The country is, of course, heavily timbered, and in short, is so far from being bleak or desolate that an outfit calculated for a year can easily, by good management, be made to support the miner for two years.

FARE

Including berth, meals en route and free transportation of 1,000 pounds of freight or baggage, as follows :

From San Pedro	\$100.00
From San Francisco.....	90.00
From Seattle	80.00

The board will be first-class in every particular, and passengers are assured of courteous treatment and every accommodation necessary for comfort and convenience,

Within a few days after leaving Seattle the expedition will be in the heart of the go'd fields, at an expense to each man of not to exceed \$100.

It costs at least \$500 and takes at least three months to reach the Klondyke gold fields.

OUTFITS

No man should go into the Alaskan country without providing himself with an adequate outfit, viz., at least one year's provisions, and warm and serviceable clothing.

CLOTHING

- 2 suits corduroy or 2 suits stoutest Jeans.
- 1 short warm coat.
- 1 heavy overcoat.
- 1 sleeping bag (canvas, woolen lined).
- 3 pairs overalls.
- 3 pairs heavy woolen socks.
- 3 pairs ordinary socks.
- 2 pairs blanket-lined mittens.
- 2 pairs rubber boots—a can of cement
- 3 pairs shoes—one extra heavy
- A bolt of cheese-cloth, extra heavy
- 1 or 2 caps
- 1 rubber coat
- 3 suits heavy underwear—woolen
- 1 bicycle sweater
- 2 summer negligee shirts
- 6 towels
- Take a bachelor's sewing outfit

HARDWARE

- 1 hand-saw
- 1 draw-knife
- 1 pocket rule
- 1 hunting knife
- 1 hatchet
- 1 chisel
- 1 ax
- 6 lbs. assorted nails
- 1 brace and bits
- 75 feet of rope ($\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch
- 1 frying pan
- 1 baking pan
- 1 coffee pot
- 1 granite kettle
- 1 bread pan
- 1 granite plate and cup
- 1 large spoon
- 1 knife, fork and spoon
- Fishing tackle
- 1 pick
- 1 shovel
- Pans
- 1 Winchester Rifle reloading tools, 100 rounds ammunition

PROVISIONS

- 300 lbs. flour, good standard
- 100 lbs. corn meal
- 50 lbs. oat meal
- 150 lbs. beans, pink
- 25 lbs. coffee
- 12 lbs. tea
- 10 lbs. salt
- 75 lbs. sugar, granulated
- 15 lbs. rice
- 100 lbs. assorted evaporated fruits } Equal to 800
- 100 lbs. evaporated vegetables } lbs. green
- 25 lbs. hard tack
- 10 lbs. compressed soup vegetables
- 10 lbs. soap

$\frac{1}{2}$ doz cans beef extract
150 lbs. bacon
10 lbs. dried beef
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. pepper
10 lbs. baking powder
Plenty California block matches
1 lb. citric acid
1 Tent
1 Clothes Bag
Medicine Chest

Total Cost of all above Supplies should not exceed
**One Hundred and Fifty to
Two Hundred Dollars.**

LAWS OF MINING

An important item to be considered in determining where to hunt gold is the question of the laws under which claims can be worked. The Canadian laws are exceedingly severe, exacting a royalty of 20 per cent, reserving every alternate claim and allowing the working of but a small space of land. The laws of our own country exact absolutely no duty or royalty, reserve no claims and allow the taking up of twenty acres of mining land by each man.



pioneers in this country, independent fortunes. One of the most recent strikes was made at a point about seventy-five miles from the coast, the fortunate man taking out in about three months' time \$84,000 in nuggets and dust. Other strikes in the same vicinity have been made, varying from \$40,000 to \$180,000 during the past four months.

The latest advices show that not only are there rich placer lands, but that back in the mountains are numerous quartz leads of almost fabulous wealth.

AN OPPORTUNITY

Our Expedition, now organizing, will leave San Pedro October 14th, San Francisco October 18th and Seattle October 23d, going thence direct to the mouth of the Copper River. The number to be taken on this expedition is limited to 160. The steamer "Alice Blanchard," a first-class vessel, has been secured for this service. She is a comparatively new ship and her accommodations for passengers are commodious and pleasant. The trip at this season of the year should be a very enjoyable one. The expedition will proceed up the river as far as possible, and will then establish a permanent camp, storing their goods and making it headquarters for prospecting the country. This trip offers an excellent opportunity not only to those wishing to mine upon the Copper River, but also to any parties wishing to go on into the Klondyke country, as there is an almost continuous water route to Forty-Mile Creek, and the government reports further show that the easiest land route to the headwaters of the Yukon is through a valley terminating at the Copper River, thus enabling one to avoid the steep Chilkoot and White Passes. The route of the proposed railway to the Klondyke is through the valley above mentioned.

In sharp contrast with the Klondyke, not only are these gold fields accessible in winter time, but the winter is decidedly the best time to go. The climate is not so severe but that prospecting can be carried on continuously, and travel over the snow is easy compared to what it will be in the Spring, when the snows melt, and what are now small streams become raging torrents, while the whole country, now dry, becomes water soaked, and practically impassable. Nevertheless, there will be a tremendous rush to these fields early next Spring, and one object of this expedition is to anticipate this rush.



TOPOGRAPHY

In marked contrast to other sections of Alaska, the Copper River region, owing to the milder climate and more open nature of the country, especially on the west side, is accessible at all seasons of the year. The river is broad, with no rapids for at least 65 miles, and is navigable for light draft steamers, and small sailing vessels for about 250 miles. It is void of cataracts, and falls from mouth to source. The country bordering on the river is, on the east side, exceedingly mountainous and rugged, and it is here, at points varying from 12 to 100 miles from the coast, that the recent big strikes have been made.

Authentic information in regard to late valuable finds show the country to be so rich in gold-bearing lands, that a few months of intelligent labor has sufficed to make many men, who have been



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